

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 307560  
ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 307560

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV FROM CAIRO DTD

26 DEC 1977 QTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 22929

FROM USDEL CAIRO NO. 0036

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ATHERTON

INR FOR SAUNDERS, NEA FOR SOBER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, XF, US

SUBJECT: RECESS OF CAIRO CONFERENCE AND ATHERTON'S FUTURE  
PLANS

1. THE CAIRO CONFERENCE MET BRIEFLY THIS AFTERNOON,  
DECEMBER 26, TO HEAR SUMMARY REPORTS BY ABDEL MEGUID

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AND BEN-ELISSAR ON THE SADAT-BEGIN TALKS IN ISMAILIYA.  
IN ADDITION, STERNER AND I HAVE HAD SEPARATE PRELIMINARY  
READOUTS FROM BOTH ABDEL MEGUID AND BEN-ELISSAR. WE  
ARE SENDING YOU A FULL REPORT ON THESE DISCUSSIONS  
BY SEPTEL, ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THAT THE PRINCIPAL REPORTS  
ON THE ISMAILIYA TALKS WILL BE COMING FROM EILTS AND  
LEWIS AFTER THEY ARE BRIEFED BY SADAT AND BEGIN.

2. VERY BRIEFLY, IT WAS AGREED AT THIS AFTERNOON'S SESSION TO RECESS THE CAIRO CONFERENCE AS OF TODAY, WITH TIMING OF ITS RECONVENING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL TO BE AGREED UPON IN CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES IN LIGHT OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEES WHICH WILL BE MEETING IN JERUSALEM AND CAIRO, RESPECTIVELY, BEGINNING ABOUT JANUARY 15. ABDEL MEGUID TOLD US THAT FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, THEY HOPE THE TWO COMMITTEES CAN COMPLETE THEIR WORK IN FOUR TO SIX WEEKS FROM THAT DATE. HE ALSO SAID THAT EGYPT VERY MUCH WANTS A U.S. "OBSERVER" (AND A UN "OBSERVER" AS WELL IF POSSIBLE) TO TAKE PART IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS IN JERUSALEM. BEN-ELISSAR INDICATED THAT SUCH OBSERVERS WOULD BE WELCOME.

3. THIS PROSPECTIVE TIMETABLE RAISES THE IMMEDIATE QUESTION OF WHAT YOU BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL FOR ME TO DO IN THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD. I HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED, AS YOU KNOW, TO ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT AND YOU FOR THE PRESIDENT'S TEHRAN, NEW DELHI AND RIYADH VISITS. GIVEN FACT THAT IT IS ALREADY LATE IN THE DAY TO TRY TO LEAVE CAIRO TUESDAY MORNING, AND DESIRABILITY IN ANY CASE OF BEING HERE TO COMPARE NOTES WITH ELTS FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH SADAT TUESDAY MORNING, I COULD LEAVE CAIRO WEDNESDAY MORNING, AND  
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ASSUMING NO MISSED CONNECTIONS EN ROUTE, COULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON WEDNESDAY EVENING. THIS WOULD GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SEE YOU THAT EVENING OR EARLY THURSDAY BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND A DAY TO CONSULT WITH THE MIDDLE EAST GROUP IN WASHINGTON, WITH A DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON FRIDAY TO CONNECT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY EITHER IN WARSAW OR TEHRAN. ALTERNATIVELY, I COULD SIMPLY REMAIN IN CAIRO AND GO DIRECTLY FROM HERE TO EITHER WARSAW OR TEHRAN ON FRIDAY. IF YOU THOUGHT IT MORE IMPORTANT FOR ME TO BE IN WASHINGTON DURING THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD, A THIRD ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO FLY HOME ON WEDNESDAY AND STAY THERE, WITH SID SOBER GOING ALONG IN MY PLACE FOR THE NEA STOPS ON THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP.

4. PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHICH OF THE FOREGOING ALTERNATIVES WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO YOU, AND I WILL MAKE MY PLANS ACCORDINGLY. I HAVE, INCIDENTLY, CONFIRMED WITH THE EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS HERE THAT THEY DO NOT EXPECT ANY AMERICAN DELEGATION REPRESENTATION TO STAY ON IN CAIRO. THE ISRAELIS ARE DEPARTING FOR JERUSALEM TUESDAY AFTERNOON EXCEPT FOR A SMALL SERVICE CONTINGENT WHICH WILL

STAY BEHIND TO LOOK AFTER THEIR COMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION  
WHICH I GATHER THEY PLAN TO LEAVE IN PLACE, PRESUMABLY  
FOR WEIZMAN/GAMASY TALKS AND FOR SUCH TIME AS THE  
CONFERENCE MAY RECONVENE IN CAIRO. ABDEL MEGUID IS  
CONSIDERING RETURNING TO NEW YORK UNTIL THE MINISTERIAL  
POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETS IN JERUSALEM IN MID-JANUARY.  
EY. EILTS UNQTE  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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